

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

—“Over the Ocean; or, Sights and Scenes in Other Lands,” is the title of a description of a tour through Europe by Curtis Guild, Esq., editor of the Boston Commercial Bulletin, and the work is made up of a series of sketches originally contributed to the columns of that journal. Mr. Guild has had so many predecessors in the branch of literature to which this volume is the latest contribution, that it has scarcely been possible for him to say anything very new; but as a lively and entertaining description of the noteworthy sights of Europe, it will compare favorably with most works of travel, and will repay a perusal. Published by Lee & Shepard, and for sale in Philadelphia by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

—“Dress and Care of the Feet,” published by Samuel H. Wells, is a reissue in book form of a series of articles originally contributed to the Shoe and Leather Reporter. The object of the volume is to exhibit the causes of the common deformities and discomforts to which the feet are subject; to show the best means of preserving their natural shape and condition, or of restoring it, as far as possible, when lost; and to suggest better methods for their dress and general treatment. It contains a number of valuable hints about the shape of shoes and boots, and other matters connected with the comfort of the feet, and we commend it to the attention of the sufferers from corns and bunions as likely to suggest means of relief. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

—“The Model Prayer,” by Rev. George D. Baldwin, D. D., published by Lee & Shepard, is a series of eleven lectures upon the Lord's Prayer, in which the petition is analyzed and the meaning of its various parts explained and commented on in such a manner as to impress the reader with an adequate idea of their true value singly and collectively. The volume is one that deserves a cordial welcome from Christian readers. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

—Harper & Brothers have just issued the tenth edition, with the latest revisions and corrections, of “Notes Explanatory and Practical on the Epistle to the Romans,” by Rev. Albert Barnes. These notes are intended more especially for the use of Bible classes, Sunday-schools, and non-professional students of the Scriptures, and they are exceedingly clear and practical in their explanations and illustrations. For sale by Claxton, Remsen & Haffelinger.

—“The Gas-Consumers' Guide,” published by Alexander Moore, Boston, gives a description of the manufacture of gas, with a brief history of artificial light, a description of the various burners, gas-meters, and other appliances, with directions for their application, a variety of hints on ventilation, the chemistry of gas-lighting, and other matters of interest. The information contained in this hand-book is practical, and it cannot but prove useful, especially to those who consume large quantities of gas. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

—“How it all Happened,” by the author of “Dorothy Fox,” is a well-written little love story, in which a great deal is said in a very few words. Published by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

—“The Strawberry Garden,” by Charles Bernard, published by Loring, relates how the strawberry garden was planted, what it cost, and what came of it financially and sentimentally. In other words, an excellent description of a successful experiment in strawberry culture is related under the guise of an amusing story. For sale by W. S. Turner.

—No. 58 of “Zell's Popular Encyclopedia” includes the titles between “Villa-Flor” and “White River.” Another number will complete the work.

—The Phenological Journal for April contains several sketches of eminent individuals, with a variety of information on phenological subjects.

—The April number of The Young Pilot has an entertaining series of stories and sketches for young people.

—The first volume of Scribner's Monthly is now complete, and is issued in a neat binding suitable for the library shelves. This magazine has in a very short time achieved a great popularity, which it fully deserves. It is filled with interesting articles on a great variety of popular subjects, from the pens of some of the best writers of the day, and with its profuse and elegant illustrations, it is emphatically the magazine for the home circle.

—From the Central News Company, No. 505 Chesnut street, we have received the latest numbers of the St. James' Magazine, Punch, and Fun.

SINGULAR PHENOMENON.

A Man's Body Dead While His Head is Alive and Well. A singularly awful accident occurred on Thursday morning near Little Falls, N. J., to a prominent citizen of that place, named George Shackford. He was piling a load of hay, standing on top, when a waver of the load caused him to lose his balance, and he fell to the ground, striking upon the back of his neck. For a few minutes he was completely senseless, but subsequently recovered as far as his head and mental faculties were concerned. His body, however, was completely paralyzed, the whole being perfectly dead below the neck—utterly devoid of all power of motion or any sense of feeling. The unfortunate man could not control the smallest muscle, neither could he feel the touch or abrasion of the flesh below the neck. He experienced no sensation of pain or physical unpleasantness. The mental agony of such a condition, however, cannot be imagined.

The injured man was still in the same condition yesterday afternoon, but was falling fast, apparently dying for want of nourishment, not being able to partake of food or stimulants. It was the impression that he would not live through the night.

Mr. Shackford was a man largely known and respected in his vicinity. Little Falls is situated in an isolated position about six miles from Paterson.

—A man down South is vainly trying to express his “ineffable contempt for the viper that occupies the editorial tripod” of a rival sheet in Huntsville, Alabama.

“THE ILLINOIS FARMER” ON THE SITUATION.

GRANT, SUMNER, SAN DOMINGO, MOTLEY, AND THE GENERAL CONDITION OF AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON HUMOROUSLY REVIEWED.

That shrewd and quaint observer, “The Illinois Farmer,” has written the following letter to the Iron Age:— The mail has brought my Washington papers, which give me a clearer insight into what the telegraph had reported about the news that some Senators had kicked up about the removal of Mr. Sumner from the chairmanship of the Committee on Foreign Affairs—a place he has held for some years. That Mr. Sumner has ability and is very industrious, no one doubts or questions, so far as we know, but that he has a divine right, to the exclusion of all others, to occupy the most prominent position in the Senate, some of us plain men are not so certain. I see that his colleague, Mr. Wilson, goes so far as to say that this action of the Senate will cause a split in the Republican party. I guess not this time. How do Mr. Sumner and Mr. Wilson reconcile this with their oft-repeated denunciations of the Southern people rushing into rebellion for no other reason than the election of Mr. Lincoln, in 1860, by a majority of the people of the United States? “What is sauce for goose is for gander.”

Is Massachusetts the whole of the United States? Is it not enough that the Secretary of the Treasury, and General Grant's first Attorney-General, as well as the Minister to England, should be taken from Massachusetts, while one of her Senators held the third most important position in the Government. Must the great Republican party, to which more than anything else the Government owes its existence, be broken up because the majority of the Senators have seen fit to organize their committees to suit themselves? Senators have vast and important duties to perform, and we all know it has been the practice ever since we have had a Senate to apportion the various duties to certain of their own members for examination and report to the full Senate, for the simple reason that it is practically impossible to get through with the public business in any other way. If, in the selection of those committees, any Senator sees fit to pont and make a fuss because he imagines he has been slighted, my notion is he will have all the growing to himself, for the great mass of our people care no more who compose those committees than they do as to whom the Shah of Persia shall select for his Grand Vizier. What we all look at is the final action of Congress and the President, as regards our public matters. If what they do does not please us, we then take it in hand, and elect a Congress and a President that will do what we think should be done. We care not at all how they do it, but we look sharp at what is done or left undone.

It appears from the papers that Mr. Sumner has been somewhat riled because General Grant saw fit to remove Mr. Motley from the Ministry to England, and from that moment has gone around with a chip on his shoulder (as school boys often do), daring some one to knock it off; or, in other words, virtually saying to the President, “I'll show you that you can't snub my friend Motley with impunity.” Hence his opposition to the President's suggestion that Congress should take steps to acquire the island of St. Domingo.

I have nothing to say one way or the other about the removal of Mr. Motley. That he is a splendid historian, and has written the clearest and most correct history of the Dutchmen in Holland, during their terrible struggle with Catholicism as represented by Philip II, of Spain, no one questions, but that in consequence thereof he is the man to represent us in putting a new ring in Mr. John Bull's nose, does not follow by any means. It is enough for me to know that General Grant, whom we elected to look after all such matters, didn't want him any longer—paid him off and told him he'd hire somebody else. Suppose Mr. Sumner should recommend some Massachusetts farmer to me to act as my head farmer, and I should employ him; and suppose I should find, after having tried him, he was not the man I wanted at all, and that I should discharge him, would Mr. Sumner raise a row about it, and go snorting around the country and saying, “He'd teach that Illinois farmer a lesson when he got a good chance, wouldn't he? I think there would be as much sense in the latter case, as in the fuss he has made over Mr. Motley.

It appears that the first chip Mr. Sumner put on his shoulder, and strutted around daring some one to knock it off, was his opposition to the President's proposal to Congress to take measures to acquire St. Domingo, provided always the people of that island were disposed to unite with us. Both houses of Congress met him fairly and knocked his “chip” higher than a kite, by authorizing the President to appoint commissioners to go down and look the island over, and talk with the people about joining us, and come back and report to them all about it. So, if Mr. Sumner is six feet and two inches high in his stocking feet, forty-seven inches round the chest, and said to be the most expert pugilist in all New England, it seems Congress wasn't afraid of him the least bit, but knocked the chip off his shoulder before he had time to think even of throwing himself into a defensive position, much less to do it; so, away flew that chip, and now that the Senate has hoisted his “Foreign Relations Chip,” too, he must begin to see more attention to such attacks that he did to the whining buzz of a prairie “gallinipper,” that lustiest breed of mosquitoes we raise in this State.

As for this St. Domingo business, I can only say this:—I go in for getting some place down in those West India Islands where we can have a ship yard to repair vessels and deposit coal for our steamers; so that in case of war our steamers shall stand an equal chance with the navies of other nations, so far as operations on our South Atlantic and Gulf coasts are concerned. England, France, Spain, and Denmark all own some of these islands, so that in case of war with us they would be at home, while our ships have no place to refit short of Charleston or Savannah, on the one hand, or Pensacola, on the other; either of which places are hundreds of miles from what would probably be the scene of conflict. I therefore say, by all means let us have a place down there that shall be our own, where our mercantile as well as our naval vessels can feel that they have some-

thing more than a “treaty right” to drop their mud-boots, when necessity or convenience makes it desirable they should do so. So far as St. Domingo itself is concerned, if honest old Ben Wade comes back and tells us it is all right, and I have a chance to vote for it next “town-meeting day,” I shall most assuredly vote “yes,” with all my heart; and so far as Mr. Sumner is concerned, if he will but recollect the injunction of Scripture, that “he that exalteth himself shall be abased,” and “he that humbleth himself shall be exalted,” and act accordingly, I will warrant him to come out far better in the end than he will if he continues the dominating style he has practiced for some few years past. Oh, that men would be wise, and not make fools of themselves, when they happen to fall in with a prosperous current.

Your obedient servant,
AN ILLINOIS FARMER.

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